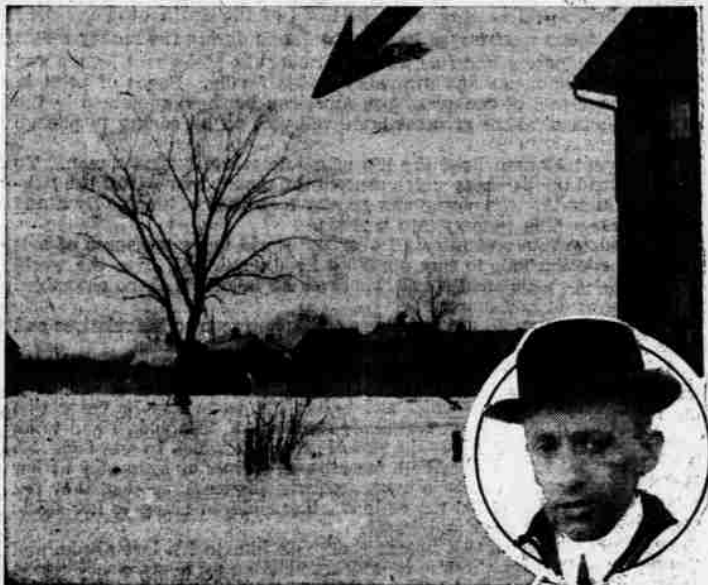


HE RESCUED THIRTEEN FROM A TREE



Stephen Stepanian and the Tree at Cypress and Glenwood Streets, at Columbus, Ohio, from Which He Rescued Thirteen People.

From the flood incidents in Columbus, O., comes the story of how Stephen Stepanian, 24, poling an improvised life raft single-handedly, rescued 13 children, women and men, who had clung half exhausted for 48 hours to the branches of a big tree at Cypress and Glenwood avenues.

The refugees in the tree top had dragged themselves into the branches from the tops of houses floating by in the flooded street. Men had carried the children on their shoulders. Women, in night garments, tied themselves to the larger branches with strips cut from their clothes,

to keep them from losing their hold.

Realizing that the 48 hours exposure in a high wind had put the little party in a desperate plight, Stepanian, himself marooned in a house near the tree, put together a raft of floating timbers.

Time and again he struggled across the swift current to the tree, using a long pole scull fashion. Only two or three at a time could be removed to places of safety. The women and children went first.

Several of the refugees fainted from cold and the terror of their experience when the work of rescue ended.